

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 TRSE-00
ERDA-05 L-03 /078 W
-----014405 300649Z /21/65

R 291901Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6391
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 22026

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (SECTION INFORMATION ADDED)

USSALT TWO FOR WARNKE AND DAVIES, CCD DEL FOR FISHER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CCD PARM US UR FR
SUBJ: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON FRENCH CCD MEMBERSHIP

REFS: A. STATE 173564. B. PARIS 17318.

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 29 EMBOFF CONVEYED ESSENCE REF A TO MISTRAL. MISTRAL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CCD PARTICIPATION IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION IN GOF. HE OPINED THAT FRANCE WILL NOT APPROACH CO-CHAIRMAN RE FRENCH PARTICIPATION, BUT WILL RATHER WAIT FOR INVITATION FROM THEM. MISTRAL UNDERTOOK TO BRING SOVIET TEXT AND PROPOSED US RESPONSE TO THE ATTENTION OF HIS SUPERIORS. QUAI WILL RESPOND IN DUE COURSE. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS IN REF A, EMBOFF CALLED ON ANDRE MISTRAL, ACTING CHIEF OF PACTS AND DISARMAMENT IN FOREIGN MINISTRY. EMBOFF LEFT WITH MISTRAL COPIES

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OF TEXT PROVIDED TO DEPARTMENT BY DOBRYNIN ON JULY 12 AND PROPOSED US RESPONSE. EMBOFF STATED THAT USG WOULD LOOK POSITIVELY TOWARD THE POSSIBILITY OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE CCD AND WOULD WANT TO DISCUSS WITH THE USSR ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES THAT MIGHT RESULT FROM A MOVE BY THE FRENCH. EMBOFF CONTINUED THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER FLEXIBLY ALTERNATIVE

CHAIRMANSHIP ARRANGEMENTS, BUT THAT WE DO NOT WISH TO
APPEAR TO BE PRESSING THE FRENCH TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY.

3. MISTRAL READ SOVIET TEXT AND SAID THAT HE PERCEIVED
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE SOVIET ACCOUNT AND WHAT WAS
ACTUALLY SAID IN THE MEETINGS BETWEEN GROMYKO AND
GUIRINGAUD AND BREZHNEV AND GISCARD. MISTRAL SAID THAT
IT IS CORRECT THAT GISCARD TOLD BREZHNEV THAT FRANCE IS
STUDYING THE QUESTION OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE
CCD. HOWEVER, CONTRARY TO PARAGRAPH 1 OF THE SOVIET
TEXT, THE FRENCH DID NOT CONNECT THEIR STUDY WITH "THE
REORGANIZATION OF THE PROCEDURE OF CHAIRMANSHIP." THE
FRENCH DID EXPRESS THEIR TRADITIONAL RETICENCE TOWARD
THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP, BUT YHAT DID NOT DEPART FROM PRE-
VIOUS FRENCH STATEMENTS OVER THE YEARS.

4. WITH REGARD TO PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE SOVIET TEXT,
MISTRAL WAS SURPRISED AT THE SOVIET REFERENCE TO "FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN CO-CHAIRMANSHIP." MISTRAL SAID THAT
AFTER FRANCE HAD CRITICIZED THE INSTITUTION OF CO-
CHAIRMANSHIP FOR SO MANY YEARS, IT WOULD NOT BE LOGICAL
FOR FRANCE TO WISH TO JOIN IT. MISTRAL SAID THAT ONE
CAN ENVISAGE VARIOUS METHODS FOR MAKING A CCD PROCEDURE
MORE ACCEPTABLE TO FRANCE (SUCH AS A ROTATING CHAIRMAN-
SHIP), BUT NOT EXPANSION OF THE CO-CHAIRMANSHIP. IN
ANY CASE, THE FRENCH WOULD BE MORE LIKELY TO AWAIT A
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PROPOSAL FOR ALTERATION OF CCD PROCEDURES WHICH MIGHT
COME FROM THE CURRENT CO-CHAIRMAN.

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R 291901Z JUL 77
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5. RE PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE SOVIET TEXT, MISTRAL INTERPRETED THE LANGUAGE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD SUBORDINATE FRENCH ENTRANCE INTO THE CCD TO PRESERVATION OF THE CONSENSUS RULE, NO CHANGE IN COMPOSITION, AND THE SAME RELATION TO THE UN. IN REGARD

TO MODIFICATION OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE CCD, THE FRENCH HAVE LONG BELIEVED THAT ENTRANCE OF THE PRC WOULD BE IN THE NATURE OF THINGS. FRANCE IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE CURRENT TRIANGULAR ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING THE TWO BLOCS AND THE THIRD WORLD. MISTRAL CONTINUED THAT THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES HAVE ALMOST 100 PERCENT REPRESENTATION IN THE CCD, WHEREAS THE WEST HAS MUCH LESS. SURELY BELGIUM HAS MORE TO CONTRIBUTE ON ARMS CONTROL THAN DOES MONGOLIA? THE THIRD WORLD IS ALSO UNDERREPRESENTED WHICH CAUSES A LACK OF SERIOUS INTEREST IN ARMS CONTROL ISSUES IN THE THIRD WORLD. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT FRANCE HAS AN ALTERATION OF MEMBERSHIP IN MIND, BUT THAT IS A FACTOR IN THE FRENCH REVIEW. EMBOFF STATED (PER PARAGRAPH 4C OF REF A) THAT THE US PRESENTLY BELIEVED THAT THE CCD HAS A QUITE WELL-BALANCED MEMBERSHIP.

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6. EMBOFF ASKED IF THE FRENCH, IN CONSIDERING CCD PARTICIPATION, BELIEVED THAT ANY CHANGES MUST TAKE PLACE BEFORE FRANCE MIGHT OCCUPY A SEAT. MISTRAL REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN ANY CHANGES, IF FRANCE DECIDES TO JOIN, BUT THAT THE CHANGES WOULD NOT NECESSARILY HAVE TO OCCUR IN ADVANCE. FRANCE WOULD WISH TO BE ASSURED CONCERNING ANY FUTURE CHANGES PRIOR TO TAKING A SEAT.

7. EMBOFF ASKED FRENCH VIEWS RE TIMING AND METHODS FOR WORKING OUT POSSIBLE CHANGES. MISTRAL REPLIED THAT THE FRENCH ARE THINKING OF A LONGER-TERM, BUT THAT THEY ARE AWARE THAT THE SSOD WILL ADDRESS DISARMAMENT MECHANISMS. THUS THE FRENCH ARE CONSIDERING THIS MATTER IN ADVANCE OF THE 1978 SSOD.

8. EMBOFF THEN HANDED MISTRAL A COPY OF THE PROPOSED US RESPONSE TO THE SOVIETS. MISTRAL COMMENTED THAT

THERE SHOULD BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING. FRANCE IS NOT A CANDIDATE APPLYING FOR CCD MEMBERSHIP. RATHER, FRANCE WILL MUCH MORE LIKELY BE EXAMINING WHATEVER THE CO-CHAIRMAN MIGHT PROPOSE IN THIS REGARD.

9. MISTRAL EXPRESSED SINCERE APPRECIATION THAT THE US HAD MADE AVAILABLE THE SOVIET TEXT AND THE PROPOSED RESPONSE. HE NOTED THAT THE VIEWS HE HAD EXPRESSED WERE PERSONAL AND DID NOT REPRESENT A CONSIDERED GOF RESPONSE TO THE US PRESENTATION. MISTRAL SAID THE SOVIET TEXT AND US RESPONSE WILL BE REVIEWED IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND A CONSIDERED FRENCH RESPONSE WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, DEMARCHE
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PARIS22026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770286-0581, D770273-0645
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977074/aaaaadip.tel
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Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 173564
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1809822
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET DEMARCHE ON FRENCH CCD MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: PARM, US, UR, FR, CCD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2330467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009